

## EU referendum: David Cameron hit by biggest Conservative rebellion

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**David Cameron was shocked last night by the biggest ever Conservative revolt over Europe as more than 80 Conservative MPs defied his orders and backed a referendum on Britainâ€™s membership of the European Union.**

By James Kirkup | The Telegraph

A total of 79 of his MPs voted for a Commons motion calling for a referendum on Britainâ€™s relationship with the EU, even though Mr Cameron had ordered his party to oppose it. Two tellers indicated they supported the motion.

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Another two Tories voted yes and no, the traditional way of registering an abstention. A further 12 did not vote.

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In all, about half of all Conservatives outside the â€œpayroll voteâ€• of ministers and their aides scorned Mr Cameronâ€™s authority. Rebel leaders warned that the Prime Minister faced a protracted â€œwarâ€• with his own party over the European issue.

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The call for a referendum was defeated only because Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs also opposed it. The motion was rejected by 483 votes to 111 in the late-night Commons vote.

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At least two junior members of the Government backed the referendum motion and resigned. They included Adam Holloway, an aide to David Lidington, the Europe Minister, who accused ministers of mistreating loyal Conservatives.

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